

Poisonous Plants

Child Care Licensing staff has compiled the following information about the most common poisonous plants found in Utah. This document is based on information from Poison Control.

Stinging Nettle



Plant Description: It is 1-2 feet tall with a distinctive yellow, widely spreading root. Both the leaves and the stems are covered with brittle, hollow, silky hairs.

Dangerous Parts of Plant: leaves and stems

Type of Toxicity: touch

Signs of Poisoning: burning sensation, skin irritation, and rash

First Aid: Quickly wash the affected area. Rubbing the affected area with mud and allowing it to dry before brushing it clean can relieve some of the burning. Applying ice to the affected area can relieve some of the itching. Smearing the affected area with a paste of Baking Soda and water and rinsing it after a few minutes may also relieve some of the burning and itching.

Poison Ivy



Plant Description: It is a low shrub not exceeding 4 feet in height. It grows well in shady wooded areas.

Dangerous Parts of Plant: poisonous sap in the roots, stems, leaves and fruit.

Type of Toxicity: touch

Signs of Poisoning: severe itching, skin irritation, and rash, which can develop into large oozing sores

First Aid: Wash with soap and water before the reaction occurs. Applying Epsom salts or baking soda may help relieve some of the skin irritation. If a rash occurs, take a prescription medication for 12 to 15 days.

Oleander



Plant Description: It is a green shrub that sometimes grows to the size of small tree. The leaves are 8 to 10 inches long. The flowers are showy and approximately 1 to 3 inches in diameter. The flowers grow in clusters at the end of the branches and are white, pink or red.

Dangerous Parts of Plant: leaves and flowers

Type of Toxicity: touch and Ingestion

Signs of Poison: Ingestion of just a small amount can be fatal. The hear rate slows down, the blood pressure is lowered and the person becomes lethargic. Symptoms can also include drowsiness, tremors and shaking. Oleander sap can cause skin irritations and severe eye inflammation.

First Aid: immediate medical professional help

Poison Oak



Plant Description: It is a green leafy vine that grows close to the ground.

Dangerous Parts of Plant: leafs

Type of Toxicity: touch

Signs of Poison: skin irritation and rash, if ingested the same symptoms would be found on inside of the body as there are on the outside

First Aid: Wash with soap and water before the reaction occurs. Applying Epsom salts or baking soda may help relieve some of the skin irritation. If a rash occurs, take a prescription medication for 12 to 15 days.

Mushrooms



Plant Description: Mushrooms grow in cool, damp ground. They have a large stem and an umbrella-like top. They come in many different colors and sizes. It is very difficult to tell the difference between a poisonous mushroom and one that is edible.

Dangerous Parts of Plant: entire plant

Type of Toxicity: ingestion

Signs of Poison: hours of vomiting to lethal liver or kidney failure, hallucinations

First Aid: Immediate medical attention is required. Do not wait for symptoms to appear before contacting medical personnel. Sometimes the liver can shut down without a person having any other symptoms.

Toadstools



Plant Description: Toadstools grow in cool, damp ground. They have a stem with a large, flat, umbrella-like top. They come in many different colors and sizes. It is very difficult to tell the difference between poisonous toadstools and those that are edible.

Dangerous Parts of Plant: entire plant

Type of Toxicity: ingestion

Signs of Poison: hours of vomiting to lethal liver or kidney failure, hallucinations

First Aid: Immediate medical attention

Jimsonweed



Plant Description: It is an annual herb which grows up to 5 feet tall. The leaves are ovate, 3 to 8 inches long, have a green or purplish coloration, and the edges serrated. The flowers are white or purple. The seeds are contained in a hard, spiny capsule, which is about 2 inches in diameter. When ripe, the capsule will split lengthwise into four parts.

Dangerous Parts of Plant: entire plant

Type of Toxicity: ingestion

Signs of Poison: a dry mouth, blurred vision, difficult swallowing and speaking, increased heart rate and blood pressure, coma

First Aid: Immediate medical attention

Castor Bean



Plant Description: It is a shrub-like herb with large, long-stemmed leaves. It has spiny, clustered seed pods that contain a white seed that looks like a bean.

Dangerous Parts of Plant: entire plant

Type of Toxicity: ingestion

Signs of Poison: Only a small amount can cause poisoning. It causes the human digestive tract to convulse causing major diarrhoea. It can cause severe shock to the body that can result in death.

First Aid: Immediate medical attention

Poisonous Plants and Safe Plants

1. Keep all plants away from small children.
2. Teach children never to eat unknown plants.
3. Different parts of the plant are poisonous.
4. These lists are not complete.
5. Phone the Poison Control Center before treating a child who has eaten a plant.

Plants highlighted in **yellow** are the most dangerous plants that are common in Utah

Poisonous Plants

Flower Garden Plants	Trees and Shrubs	Wild Plants	House Plants
Autumn Crocus	Black Locust	Belladonna	Bird of Paradise
Bleeding Heart	Boxwood	Bittersweet	Castor Bean
Chrysanthemum	Chokecherry	Buttercups	Dumbcane (Dieffenbachia)
Daffodil	Elderberry	Indian Hemp	English Ivy
Four-o'clocks	English Yew	Jack-in-the-Pulpit	Holly
Foxglove	Ground Ivy	Jimson Weed	Jequirty Bean (Rosary Pea)
Hyacinth	Horse Chestnut, Buckeye	Larkspur	Jerusalem Cherry
Hydrangea	Juniper	Monkshood	Mistletoe
Iris	Oak Tree	Mushrooms (Some)	Mother-in-Law
Jonquil	Water Hemlock	Nightshade	Oleander
Lily of the Valley	Yew	Poison Hemlock	Philodendron
Morning Glory	Vegetable Garden Plants	Poison Ivy	Poinsettia
Narcissus	Asparagus	Poison Oak	Rhododendron
Snow on the Mountain	Sprouts and Green Parts of Potato	Poison Sumac	
	Rhubarb Leaves	Poison Tobacco	
	Green parts of Tomato	Skunk Cabbage	
		Stinging Nettle	
		Toadstools	

Safe Plants

African Violet	Aluminum Plant	Anthurium, Taliflower	Aphelandra
Baby Tears	Begonia	Blood Leaf	Boston Fern
Christman Cactus	Coleus	Corn Plant	Dracaena
Emerald Ripple, Peperomia	Hen-and-Chickens	Hoya	Impatiens
Jade Plant	Parlor Palm	Peperomia	Prayer Plant
Rubber Plant	Schefflera	Sensitive Plant	Snake Plant
Spider Plant	Swedish Ivy	Velvet, Purple Passion	Wandering Jew
Wax Plant	Weeping Fig	Yellow Day Lilt	